



Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa



EDICT OF GOVERNMENT



In order to promote public education and public safety, equal justice for all, a better informed citizenry, the rule of law, world trade and world peace, this legal document is hereby made available on a noncommercial basis, as it is the right of all humans to know and speak the laws that govern them.

COMESA 032 (2004) (English): Standard for
Dried Shark Fins



BLANK PAGE





**COMESA HARMONISED
STANDARD**

**COMESA/DHS
032: 2004**

Standard for Dried Shark Fins

REFERENCE: DHS 032: 2004

Foreword

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) was established in 1994 as a regional economic grouping consisting of 20 member states after signing the co-operation Treaty. In Chapter 15 of the COMESA Treaty, Member States agreed to co-operate on matters of standardisation and Quality assurance with the aim of facilitating the faster movement of goods and services within the region so as to enhance expansion of intra-COMESA trade and industrial expansion.

Co-operation in standardisation is expected to result into having uniformly harmonised standards. Harmonisation of standards within the region is expected to reduce Technical Barriers to Trade that are normally encountered when goods and services are exchanged between COMESA Member States due to differences in technical requirements. Harmonized COMESA Standards are also expected to result into benefits such as greater industrial productivity and competitiveness, increased agricultural production and food security, a more rational exploitation of natural resources among others.

COMESA Standards are developed by the COMESA experts on standards representing the National Standards Bodies and other stakeholders within the region in accordance with international procedures and practices. Standards are approved by circulating Final Draft Harmonized Standards (FDHS) to all member states for a one Month vote. The assumption is that all contentious issues would have been resolved during the previous stages or that an international or regional standard being adopted has been subjected through a development process consistent with accepted international practice.

COMESA Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the COMESA Harmonized Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest version of the standards they are implementing.

This COMESA standard is technically identical to the Codex Standard *CODEX STAN 189-1993*.

<p>A COMESA Harmonized Standard does not purport to include all necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.</p>
--

CODEX STANDARD FOR DRIED SHARK FINS***CODEX STAN 189-1993*****1. SCOPE**

This Standard applies to dried shark fins intended for further processing.

2. DESCRIPTION**2.1 PRODUCT DEFINITION**

Dried shark fins are the dorsal and pectoral fins cut in the form of an arc and the lower lobe of the caudal fin cut straight, from which all flesh has been removed, and are cut from species of sharks which are safe for human consumption.

2.2 PROCESS DEFINITION

The fins shall be subjected to a drying process so as to meet the requirements of Section 3.2.4 and shall comply with the conditions laid down hereafter.

2.3 PRESENTATION

2.3.1 Dried shark fins may be presented with the skin on or as skinless.

2.3.2 *Other Forms of Presentation*

Any other presentation shall be permitted provided that it:

- (i) meets all other requirements of this standard; and
- (ii) is adequately described on the label to avoid confusing or misleading the consumer.

3. ESSENTIAL COMPOSITION AND QUALITY FACTORS**3.1 SHARK**

Dried shark fins shall be prepared from sound sharks which are of a quality fit to be sold fresh for human consumption.

3.2 OTHER INGREDIENTS

None.

3.3 FINAL PRODUCT**3.2.1 *Appearance***

The final product shall be free from foreign material.

3.2.2 *Odour*

The product shall be free from objectionable odours.

3.2.3 *Texture*

The dried shark fins shall be free from objectionable textural characteristics.

3.2.4 *Percentage of Moisture*

The final product shall have a moisture content not exceeding 18%.

4. FOOD ADDITIVES

No additives are permitted.

5. HYGIENE AND HANDLING

5.1 The final product shall be free from any foreign material that poses a threat to human health.

5.2 When tested by appropriate methods of sampling and examination prescribed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the product:

- (i) shall be free from microorganisms or substances originating from microorganisms in amounts which may present a hazard to health in accordance with standards established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission ;
- (ii) shall not contain any other substance in amounts which may present a hazard to health in accordance with standards established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

5.3 It is recommended that the product covered by the provisions of this standard be prepared and handled in accordance with the appropriate sections of the Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev. 3-1997) and the following relevant Code: Recommended International Code of Practice for Fresh Fish (CAC/RCP 9-1976);

6. LABELLING

In addition to the General Standard for the Labelling of Prepackaged Foods (CODEX STAN 1-1985, Rev. 3-1999), the following specific provisions shall apply:

6.1 NAME OF THE FOOD

The name of the product shall be "dried shark fins" or any other appropriate name in accordance with the law and custom of the country in which the product is to be distributed.

6.1.1 There shall appear on the label reference to the form of presentation in close proximity to the name of the product in such descriptive terms that will adequately and fully describe the nature of the presentation of the product to avoid misleading or confusing the consumer.

6.1.2 In addition to the specified labelling designations above, the name of the species, the type of fin, and its size shall also appear on the label.

6.2 LABELLING OF NON-RETAIL CONTAINERS

Information on the above provisions shall be given either on the container or in accompanying documents, except that the name of the product, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer, shall appear on the container.

However, lot identification, and the name and address of the manufacturer or packer may be replaced by an identification mark provided that such a mark is clearly identifiable with the accompanying documents.

7. SAMPLING, EXAMINATION AND ANALYSIS

7.1 SAMPLING

- (i) Sampling of lots for examination of the product shall be in accordance with the Codex Sampling Plans of Prepackaged Foods (AQL-6.5) (CAC/RM 42-1969);
- (ii) The sampling of lots for examination of net weight shall be carried out according to the Codex Sampling Plans for the Determination of Net Weight (under elaboration).

7.2 SENSORY AND PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

Samples taken for sensory and physical examination shall be assessed by persons trained in such examination and in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 7.3, Annex B "Sensoric and Physical Examination"¹ and the *Guidelines for the Sensory Evaluation of Fish and Shellfish in Laboratories (CAC/GL 31 - 1999)*.

7.3 DETERMINATION OF NET WEIGHT

The net weight (exclusive of packaging material) of each sample unit in the sample lot shall be determined.

7.4 DETERMINATION OF MOISTURE

[Method to be developed.]

8. CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTIVES

A sample unit shall be considered defective when it fails to meet any of the following final product requirements referred to in Section 3.3.

8.1 FOREIGN MATTER

The presence in the sample unit of any matter which has not been derived from fish, does not pose a threat to human health, and is readily recognized without magnification or is present at a level determined by any method including magnification that indicates non-compliance with good manufacturing and sanitation practices.

8.2 ODOUR

A sample unit affected by persistent and distinct objectionable odours indicative of decomposition.

8.3 TEXTURE

Textural breakdown of the fin, indicative of decomposition, characterized by softness.

8.4 MOISTURE

The sample unit exceeds 18% moisture.

9. LOT ACCEPTANCE

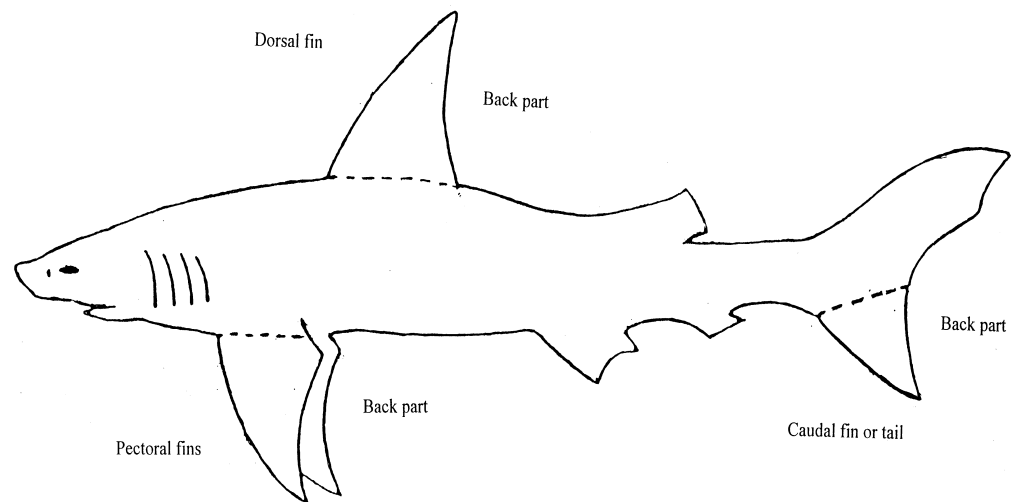
A lot shall be considered as meeting the requirements of this Standard when:

- (i) the total number of defectives as classified according to Section 8 does not exceed the acceptance number (c) of the appropriate sampling plan in the Sampling Plans for Prepackaged Foods (AQL-6.5) (CAC/RM 42-1969);
- (ii) the average net weight of all sample units is not less than the declared weight, provided there is no unreasonable shortage in any container; and
- (iii) the total number of sample units not meeting the form of presentation as defined in Section 2.3 does not exceed the acceptance number (c) of the appropriate sampling plan in the Sampling Plans for prepackaged Foods (AQL - 6.5) (CAC/RM 42-1969);

¹ To be developed.

- (iv) the Food Additive, Hygiene and Handling and Labelling requirements of Sections 4, 5.1, 5.2 and 6 are met.

ANNEX A



Four usable fins. Measurement

